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O R 102045Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 620
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 951
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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Exemption(s):

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[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 3756

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/10/85 (THAYER, YVONNE) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - MAY 10, 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3553 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE WEEK'S EVENTS INCLUDE DIVERSE TIDBITS THAT
DEMONSTRATE A CONTINUING OF EARLIER TRENDS IN THE AGREAS OF
GRADUAL PRISON IMPROVEMENTS AND CONSOLIDATION OF PEN PRISONERS,
CHURCH ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, AND TRIALS OF ABUSIVE
SECURITY ELEMENTS. ONE DISAPPEARANCE ON MAY 3 IS REPORTED
SEPARATELY. LESS WILLINGNESS TO TOLERATE PROSCRIBED

POLITICAL ACTIVITY. TWENTY-SIX POLITICIANS WERE BRIEFLY
ARRESTED OVER THE WEEKEND. CAMPORA WILL NOT BE RELEASED
SOON. GENERAL MENENDEZ WARNED AGAIN OF IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION.
FAMILIES REPORT THAT SOME 60 PRISONERS IN RESISTENCIA MAY

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REMAIN THERE FOR TRIAL BY MILITARY COURTS AND TWO DIAPPEARED
YOUTHS ARE SAID TO BE ALIVE "SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH." THE

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SARAGОВI FAMILY IS MOUNTING AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUTATION OF SON HORACIO'S SENTENCE AND LILIANA VOGLER'S CASE IS REPORTEDLY BEING RAISED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER THIS WEEK. ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR ENRIQUE ROS AT THE UN, PRESIDENT VIDELA AND THE PRESS CONTINUE TO REJECT INDIGNANTLY FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND JUDGMENTS REGARDING ARGENTINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THE FAILURE OF A SENATE MOTION TO REPEAL THE ARMS BAN AGAINST ARGENTINA AND CHILE. AN APPEALS COURT CLEARED FORMER PRESIDENT ALEJANDRO LANUSSE OF WRONGDOING IN THE ALUAR AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

1. [REDACTED] PRISON CONDITIONS IMPROVING AT VILLA DEVOTE, RAWSON --

FAMILY MEMBERS TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRISON CONDITIONS APPEAR TO BE IMPROVING, AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY, WHICH THEY CREDIT TO THE COMING OF IACHR LATER THIS YEAR. PRISONERS IN VILLA DEVOTO HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM PAVILIONS WITH 27 GIRLS TO CELLS SHARED BETWEEN FIVE PERSONS. VILLA DEVOTO IS BEING REPAINTED AND REPAIRED. THOSE DETAINEES IN CLASS NO. 2 HAVE TELEVISION AND READING PRIVILEGES AND FIVE HOURS OF RECREATION A DAY. INMATES TAKE GYMNASTICS AND ARE BEING PROVIDED WITH NEW GYM CLOTHES. A RECENT VISITOR TO RAWSON PRISON SAID THAT ALL PEN DETAINEES FROM SIERRA CHICA HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO RAWSON AND THAT THE FORMERLY VERY HARSH CONDITIONS THERE HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT. THE RAWSON INMATES ARE NOW ALLOWED COMMUNAL EATING PRIVILEGES AND SILVERWARE. THEY CAN PRACTICE SPORTS AND HAVE A TWO HOUR REST PERIOD PER DAY DURING WHICH THEY ARE ALLOWED READING MATERIALS.

2. (U) CHURCH APPEALS TO GOA ON LABOR LEADERS, DETAINEES, DISAPPEARED PERSONS --

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THE ARGENTINE CATHOLIC HIERARCHY EXPRESSED ITS CONCERNS ON BEHALF OF RECENTLY JAILED LABOR LEADERS, PEN DETAINEES HELD WITHOUT CHARGE, DISAPPEARED PERSONS, AND LOWER INCOME GROUPS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE PRESENT ECONOMIC POLICY DURING A MEETING BETWEEN CARDINAL PRIMATESTA AND PRESIDENT VIDELA ON MAY 4. PRIMATESTA ALSO REPORTEDLY GAVE VIDELA A LIST OF NAMES OF MISSING PERSONS. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AFTER THE 39TH ANNUAL EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE HELD IN SAN MIGUEL MAY 2-4. THE BISHOPS CONFERENCE, AT WHICH PRIMATESTA WAS REELECTED PRESIDENT, PRODUCED THREE DOCUMENTS REAFFIRMING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PUEBLA DECLARATION, AND THE CHURCH'S RIGHT TO EDUCATE, REPRESENT THE POOR AND DEFEND A MORE

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EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH.

3. (U) FOWG TO COORDINATE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM --

AN OFFICIAL OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT ALL CONTACTS BETWEEN FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA REGARDING THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM SHOULD IN THE FUTURE BE DIRECTED TO HIS OFFICE. HE SAID THAT A CIRCULAR NOTE ANNOUNCING TO THIS EFFECT WOULD SOON BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

4. [REDACTED] AMNESTY DISAPPEARANCE LIST --

A BRITISH VOLUNTARY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS PREPARED A COMPUTERIZED LIST OF MORE THAN 10,000 ARGENTINE DISAPPEARANCE CASES WHICH IT WILL PROBABLY MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING CONFIRMATION OR LIST FROM DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY LONDON, IF POSSIBLE.

5. (U) FIVE POLICE SENTENCED--

THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT FIVE OF THE SEVEN POLICEMEN TRIED
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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FOR ILLEGAL ARREST AND MISTREATMENT OF EIGHT YOUTHS IN MENDOZA IN 1977 HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO TWO TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT. TWO WERE CLEARED OF CHARGES. THE COURT ALSO ORDERED TWO CONVICTED POLICEMEN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MENDOZA TO PAY DAMAGES OF TWO MILLION PESOS (ABOUT \$1,170) TO THE VICTIMS. THE POLICEMEN HAVE APPEALED THE SENTENCE.

6. (U) POLITICIANS BRIEFLY ARRESTED--

POLICE BRIEFLY ARRESTED ON MAY 5 26 POLITICIANS--NINE LEADERS OF THE POPULAR LEFTIST FRONT MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES AND 17 LEADERS OF THE INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT MEETING IN RESISTENCIA. THE POLITICAL LEADERS, WHOSE PARTIES IMMEDIATELY CABLED PROTESTS TO VIDELA AND THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, WERE RELEASED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THE PRESS SPECULATED THAT THE ARRESTS SIGNALLED A TIGHTENING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BAN AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE WAKE OF THE FAILED APRIL 27 NATIONAL STRIKE.

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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7. (U) NO AMNESTY FOR CAMPORA --

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS NOT NOW CONSIDERING AMNESTY OR
SAFE CONDUCT FOR FORMER PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMPORA WHO IS STILL
ANY ASYLEE IN THE MEXICAN EMBASSY, SAID PRESIDENT VIDELA ON
MAY 4. VIDELA SAID HE CONSIDERS CAMPORA "AN IDEOLOGICAL
CRIMINAL" RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 1973 AMNESTY AND MOST OF THE
"BLOOD THAT HAS BEEN SHED IN ARGENTINA FOR THE PAST THREE
OR FOUR YEARS."

8. (U) GENERAL MENENDEZ WARNS OF IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION --
ARMED SUBVERSION HAS BEEN TOTALLY ERADICATED, BUT THE SAME
CANNOT BE SAID FOR IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION WHICH MAY STILL
BE LURKING IN THE UNIVERSITIES, CLUBS, NEIGHBORHOODS, AND
LABOR CIRCLES, WARNED THIRD CORPS COMMANDER MENENDEZ IN REMARKS
TO THE PRESS MAY 4. MENENDEZ ADVISED ARGENTINE CITIZENS TO BE
VIGILANT OF IDEOLOGUES WHO "REMAIN HIDDEN AND COULD REVIVE
SUBVERSIVE DELINQUENCY IF PERMITTED TO RECRUIT NEW

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ADHERENTS TO THEIR ANTI-PATRIOTIC CAUSE."

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9. [REDACTED] PEN PRISONERS IN RESISTENCIA --
DESPITE OFFICIALS' STATED PLANS TO TRANSFER ALL PEN PRISONERS FROM RESISTENCIA PRISON TO LA PLATA, THE FATHER OF ONE DETAINEE TOLD EMBOFF THAT 60 PEN PRISONERS REMAIN IN RESISTENCIA AND HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO MILITARY TRIBUNALS FOR TRIAL. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE PEN STATUS OF THE 60 WAS REMOVED PRIOR TO THEIR BEING REMANDED TO MILITARY COURTS. THE FATHER, WHOSE SON IS AMONG THAT GROUP, BELIEVES THAT THE PRISONERS WILL BE TRIED BY MILITARY COURTS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT LACKS ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE TO CONVICT THEM IN CIVILIAN COURTS.

10. [REDACTED] DISAPPEARED YOUTHS ALLEGEDLY HELD --
THE MOTHER OF US INTEREST CASE JUAN MIGUEL THANHAUSER (969/78/4) INFORMED EMBASSY THAT A DETAINEE RECENTLY RELEASED FROM LA PLATA CONFIDED TO HER BY PHONE THAT HER SON WAS ALIVE AND BEING HELD "SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH," TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER US INTEREST CASE MARTINE VAZQUEZ (740/79/1). THE MOTHER WAS TOLD SHE WOULD HAVE MORE NEWS SHORTLY.

11. (U) SARAGОВI COMMUTATION CAMPAIGN --
THE MOTHER OF HORACIO SARAGОВI, A HIGH US INTEREST CASE WHO RECENTLY LOST AN APPEAL OF HIS SIX YEARS' SENTENCE, PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN MAY TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR HER SON'S CASE. THE SARAGОВIS ARE SEEKING PRESIDENTIAL COMMUTATION OF THE SENTENCE TO TIME SERVED (ALMOST THREE YEARS). SENATORS HEINZ, CONGRESSMAN GILMAN AND A CATHOLIC HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP FROM SAN FRANCISCO HAVE WRITTEN PRESIDENT VIDELA ASKING HIM TO COMMUTE THE SENTENCE.

12. [REDACTED] LILIANA VOGLER UPDATE--
THE AUNT OF LILIANA VOGLER (67/77/5) ADVISED MAY 9 THAT A US [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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LAW PROFESSOR FRIEND OF THE FAMILY HAD BEEN GRANTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE GIRL'S CASE. MRS. HINOJOSA SAID SHE RECENTLY PICKED UP A COPY OF LILIANA'S SENTENCE DECREE WHICH SHE SAID INCLUDED MANY INACCURACIES, INCLUDING THE ACCUSATION THAT SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE WAS FOUND IN LILIANA'S ROOM. SHE SAID THE REPORT ALSO NOTES THAT A MR. GOMEZ, THE PROVINCIAL POLICE OFFICER WHO INTERROGATED (TORTURED, ACCORDING TO THE AUNT) LILIANA IN RIO CUARTO WAS IN DETENTION, ACCUSED OF "COMMON CRIMES," NOT OFFENSES CONNECTED WITH LILIANA'S TREATMENT.

13. (U) GOA ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT UN --

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ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO THE UN ENRIQUE ROS TOOK A SWIPE AT THE US IN RECENT REMARKS AT THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN NEW YORK MAY 5. ROS FIRMLY DEFENDED ARGENTINA'S TRADITIONAL POLICY IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND BLAMED COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION LEADING TO RACISM AND APARTHEID AND FOOTDRAGGING ON IMPROVING AN UNFAIR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AS REAL SOURCES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. ROS DEFENDED ARGENTINA'S NEED TO "IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO OVERCOME A LEGAL CRISIS AND REINSTATE ORDER" AND CRITICIZED THOSE "WHO PRETEND TO JUDGE OTHER COUNTRIES' AFFAIRS WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SOURCE OF GENERALIZED VIOLENCE."

14. (U) MOTION TO REPEAL US ARMS BAN DEFEATED IN SENATE COMMITTEE--

THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED MAY 9 THAT AN INITIATIVE OF SENATOR HAYAKAWA OF CALIFORNIA TO REPEAL THE CURRENT LEGISLATION BANNING FMS AND COMMERCIAL MILITARY SALES TO ARGENTINA AND CHILE FAILED TO WIN APPROVAL IN THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. THE PRESS QUOTED HAYAKAWA AS ARGUING THAT THE STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ARE "INFLEXIBLE AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE." THE REPORTS ALSO QUOTED A CARTER SPOKESMAN THAT NEITHER CHILE NOR ARGENTINA HAD REGISTERED SATISFACTORY IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS TO JUSTIFY REPEAL OF THE LEGISLATION AND SENATOR SARBANES' ARGUMENT THAT REPEAL WOULD "SIGNAL TO THE VIOLATORS THAT IF

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THEY STAND FIRM LONG ENOUGH THE US WILL END UP ACCEPTING THE SITUATION."

15. (U) COURT CLEARS FORMER PRESIDENT LANUSSE--
A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT HAS CLEARED OF ALL CHARGES AND RESTORED THE "GOOD NAME AND HONOR" OF FOUR FORMER HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF WRONG-DOING IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALUAR ALUMINUM COMPANY SCANDAL. THE DECISION UPHOLDS THE VERDICT REACHED LAST YEAR BY A CRIMINAL COURT EXONERATING FORMER PRESIDENT ALEJANDRO LANUSSE, FORMER NAVY CINC PEDRO GNAVI, FORMER AIR FORCE CINC CARLOS REY, AND FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER RAFAEL CACERES MONIE.

16. (U) ENRIQUE ARDISSONE IN LA NACION OF 5/10/79 HAS A WELL-WRITTEN, BALANCED STORY COVERING THE DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DURING THE ARGENTINE-US SEMINAR SPONSORED BY GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. ARDISSONE GIVES EACH INTERLOCUTOR HIS DUE.

17. (U) AN ANALYSIS BY THE EMBASSY OF APPARENT RECENT

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EFFORTS BY ELEMENTS OF THE GOA TO PRODUCE FOR ANALYSIS RECORDS
CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARED IS CONTAINED IN A SEPARATE CABLE.
CHAPLIN

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